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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/897,826	07/03/2001	Stephen Michael Reuning	Diedre/Candidate	3851

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EXAMINER

RIMELL, SAMUEL G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2175

DATE MAILED: 06/12/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/897,826

Applicant(s)

REUNING, STEPHEN MICHAEL

Examiner

Sam Rimell

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 6-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). *AU 2175*
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Claims 9-12 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 9: Reference is made to "linked web pages". It is not clear what the web pages are linked to. The phrase "as many linking levels as desired" is indefinite since it is not clear whether it would encompass one level, multiple levels, or no levels at all.

Claim 11: The phrase "advanced natural language screening technology" is indefinite. It is not clear what kinds of systems this would encompass.

Claim 16: See remarks for claim 9.

Claim 18: See remarks for claim 11.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1 and 6-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taylor ('497).

Claim 1: The reference to Taylor discloses an iterative search engine (106) which reads as a filter which can locate web pages from a database of records. The reference refers to the Monster.com website (col. 6, lines 58-60) in which e-mail addresses are presented as hyperlinks. Clicking on such a hyperlink pops up an e-mail system which extracts the e-mail address and creates an email to be sent to the e-mail address spelled out by the hyperlink. This e-mail system thus serves as an e-mail extractor. No patentable weight is attributed to the intended usage of the filter for searching web pages.

Claim 6: In Taylor, the iterative search engine (106) locates a web page. Clicking on a hyperlinked e-mail address pops up an e-mail system that extracts an e-mail address for creating an e-mail to be sent to the address spelled out in the hyperlink.

Claim 7: The pop up e-mail system used on Monster.com is for the purpose of sending an e-mail.

Claim 8: Since Monster.com is a dedicated site for employment opportunities, the e-mail created by the pop-up system would inherently be related to a job opportunity.

Claim 9: This claim is broad enough to allow for extraction of e-mail from zero linking levels, and thus reads on Taylor, which does not extract e-mails beyond the ones presented directly to the user.

Claim 10: The iterative search engine searches a database using a keyword.

Claim 11: Since the keywords are natural language, the iterative search engine performs its query processing based on a processing of natural language.

Claim 12: All query processing involves application of rules.

Claim 13: See remarks for claim 1.

Art Unit: 2175

Claim 14: See remarks for claim 7.

Claim 15: See remarks for claim 8.

Claim 16: See remarks for claim 9.

Claim 17: See remarks for claim 10.

Claim 18: See remarks for claim 11.

Claim 19: See remarks for claim 12.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

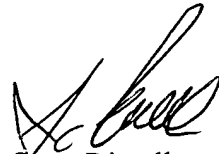
Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Official Notice.

Taylor differs from claims 2-3 in that it does not disclose relevancy scoring. However, Examiner takes Official Notice that relevancy scoring for search results is very well known in the art of database searching. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Taylor to include relevancy scoring of results to reduce the need to review a large number of hits as is very well known in the art.

Claims 4-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 2175

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sam Rimell at telephone number (703) 306-5626.



Sam Rimell  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2175